Natural History of the Jabberwock

Jabberwocks are large, potbellied, winged, four-limbed creatures with long necks and tails. The potbelly of a 'woc is filled with methane gas, allowing it to float, or 'whiffle', about. The gas is produced by copious amounts of algae, pond scum, and masses and water plants eaten by the 'woc. These ferment in the stomach, which is highly expansible. 'Whiffling' allows the 'woc to better pursue its prey, fish. It whiffles above the surface, causing never a ripple, while using its spotlight eyes to just the right effect, cancelling its own shadow. Feelers on its lower jaws are electro-chemo sensitive, and track fish movements in the murkiest waters. When the time is ripe, its arms shot out at the speed of a mantis, snatching a fish in hairy claws. These hairs are hooked at a micro level, allowing grasping of slippery fish as well as straining of water plants. The hair also defends against spines or blows from the fish. The Jabberwock's jaws are quite sharp, its rodent-like teeth are ever growing and self-sharpening. Its head is capable of snake-like strikes and is its primary defensive weapon, which on more than one occasion has proved its undoing. Some naturalists, observing the 'woc's habit of algae-scooping, have mistakenly believed that it is a dainty eater and fond of cleanliness. This myth must be put to rest, same as 'crocodile tears'. The 'woc is simply taking every last bit of fermentible material. At night, 'wocs fish. During the day, they algae scoop and roost in trees. Its favourite roosting sites are Tumosia moutamuta, commonly called 'tum-tum' trees. When returning to roost can be irascible. 'Burbling', as Mr. Dodgson would have it, is its warning call, rarely heard, and never while hunting.